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## An Overlooked Species of *Dryopteris*.

CARL CHRISTENSEN.

During the elaboration of the second part of the Monograph of the genus *Dryopteris*, published in 1920, my attention was often drawn to the Cuban species described in 1902 as *Polypodium cryptum* Underw. & Maxon, which, from the figure and the characters ascribed to it, appeared to be a species of *Dryopteris* of the subgenus *Goniopteris*. Unfortunately my work was greatly interrupted by the war, and in the final revision of the manuscript I totally forgot this species. Mr. William R. Maxon had, however, come to the same conclusion as to its relationship and he on his own initiative, sent me very recently a portion of the type of *P. cryptum* together with parts of other specimens collected by Shafer in 1910. An examination of these plants shows at once that the species must be referred to the subgenus *Goniopteris*. It may therefore be called:

***Dryopteris crypta*** (Underw. & Maxon) C. Chr. & Maxon, comb. nov.

*Polypodium cryptum* Underw. & Maxon, Bull. Torrey Club, **29**: 579. *fig.* 1902.

CUBA (Prov. Oriente): Vicinity of Baracoa, Feb. 1-7, 1902, Pollard, Palmer & Palmer 231 (type, U. S. Nat. Herb. no. 403232). Rio Guayabo, "above the falls," alt. 450-550 meters, in damp shaded places among large rocks January, 1901, Shafer 3720. Camp La Gloria, south of Sierra Moa, December 24-30, 1910, Shafer 8173. Rio Yamanigüey to Camp Toa, alt. 400 meters, on clay bank, Feb. 22-26, 1910, Shafer 4000.

The original description and drawing give a good idea of this small species. It falls under the section *Asterochlaena* of the subgenus *Goniopteris*, but it is apparently quite distinct from all other species of that group, and

it is rather remarkable that although I have had large collections of Cuban ferns for study, I have not met with it before. I have little doubt that these small plants belong to a distinct species. Nevertheless, juvenile fruiting plants of a good many species of ferns look often very different from full-grown individuals, and it is sometimes a matter of doubt whether such small individuals are young plants of species that with age grow much larger or, on the other hand, represent really good, distinct species. In the present case it is possible that *D. crypta* is a small form of *D. guadalupensis* (Wikstr.) C. Chr. (Mon. I, p. 213). Smaller forms of this species come very near to *D. crypta* in several characters, especially in general habit and in cutting of the lamina, but there are some differences which make it advisable not to unite *D. crypta* with *D. guadalupensis*. In the former the stipe and midrib are, as in *D. guadalupensis*, stellate-pubescent but are, besides, furnished with longer simple deciduous hairs, which are not met with in most forms of *D. guadalupensis*; in the variety *setulosa* C. Chr. (Mon. II, p. 25), from Haiti, these are, however, to be found. The margins of *D. crypta* are ciliate and the surfaces glabrous; in *D. guadalupensis* the margins are not ciliate, and the surfaces are stellate-pubescent along the veins. In *D. crypta* the veins are nearly always free, being simple or forked; very rarely two veins are united. In *D. guadalupensis* the lower veins always form a costular areole, even in small leaves which in size and cutting are similar to leaves of *D. crypta*. The sori of *D. crypta* are slightly immersed in the thick substance of blade and are quite exindusiate; the sporangia are glabrous. In most specimens of *D. guadalupensis* a stellate-pubescent indusium is found.

From these differences it seems fully justifiable to regard *D. crypta* as a valid species. The four collections

examined are rather uniform; the leaves are either crenate-pinnatifid throughout or are furnished with one or two distant, nearly circular, free pinnae below.

BOTANISKE MUSEUM, COPENHAGEN.

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### A New Polypodium from Vermont.

H. C. RIDLON.

In the late autumn of 1919, an acquaintance of mine, while gathering material to fill berry-bowls, collected, among other things, some small polypodiums which were growing in their usual habitat upon a boulder.

Some few weeks later my attention was called to two of these ferns which differed very much from the others in their short, rounded pinnae, but which were unmistakably polypodiums. Through the kindness of the collector, these two plants were given to me, and were transferred to a glass bowl where they were carefully watched to see what forms any new developing fronds might assume. Both plants survived the first winter and each produced several new fronds which were of unusual form but in which the pinnae and tips of the blades were more elongated. One plant died in July of this past year and the other, still alive, has been transferred from the covered bowl to an open receptacle, in hopes it may produce fronds more like those it possessed when first discovered.

All available articles on the American forms of *Polypodium vulgare* have been carefully looked over, also Druery's excellent book on "British Ferns and their Varieties," but I find no form described which approaches this one.

In one plant the fronds were lacking tips except for a short projection of the rachis. In the other specimen the fronds terminated in an elongated tip; otherwise the